Supply of costly coolent to Maruti Udyog Ltd.

678. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Golden Cruiser is the only supplier of coolent to Maruti Udyog Limited and the price of coolent supplied by this firm is Rs. 120,00 per litre;

(b) whether it is a fact that better quality coolent is available from other firms at a cost of Rs. 40.00 per litre; and

(c) if so, how does Government justify this purchase?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The selection of the coolent is critically governed by the engine operating characteristics. As on date, Maruti Udyog Limited have no offer for an approved coolent at this price.

(c) Does not arise.

H.M.T. watch factories

579. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of H.M.T. watch factories in the country at present; and

(b) what was the total production of H.M.T. watches during the year 1987?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) HMT has five watch factories in the country at present.

(b) The total production of HMT watches during the financial year 1987-88 has been approximately 5 million of a value of Rs. 151.97 crores (Figures subject to Audit).

Production of energy by private sector through non-conventional sources

580. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a package of incentives for the production of energy by private sector or cooperatives through non-conventional methods like wind farming, power generation from tidal energy etc.; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the procedure for getting clearances for electricity production through non-conventional sources of energy have been simplified; if so, what are the requirements of such procedures; and

(c) whether his Ministry have recommended to the Finance Ministry to make fiscal assistance available at concessional rates for power generation through non-conventional sources; if so, what are the details thereof including Finance Ministry's response?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. The incentives so far introduced include 100 per cent depreciation, concessions in certain cases under custom duty, central excise, sales-tax|central sales tax; grant of subsidy in certain cases, delicensing of industry in these areas in terms of Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act, treating certain non-conventional energy source technologies as priority sector for bank loans on soft terms etc. The Government has also established Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited to provide loans on soft terms to manufactures and users of non-conventional energy system.

(b) Captive power generation through non-conventional energy sources is permitted, and simplified procedures for obtaining clearances have

been suggested by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. Further, as a result of efforts by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, a few States such as Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra have taken steps to permit energy banking and purchase of electricity generated through non-conventional energy technologists by private/co-operative producers.

(c) Fiscal assistance on concessional terms is possible now for small electric power projects from Non-Conventional Sources through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited which has been set up on the recommedations of Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and approved by the Government. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has also recommended increasing the allocations available to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, or bank loaning on similar terms, to enable larger projects for power from Non-Conventional Energy Sources to be financed on concessional terms.

Amount recovered under DPCO, 1979

581. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3476 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th March, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the total amount recovered upto date under DPCO, 1979 into the Drug Prices Equalisation Account along with the details;

(b) what is the total amount spent so far along with the details;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain amount has been spent or given on loan against the provisions of DPCO, 1979 and 1987;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has given loan to certain drug companies from the amount recovered which was overcharged from consumers; and

(f) if so, under what authority this action was taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The total amount recovered under DPCO, 1979 till date (to the extent information available) into the DPEA is Rs. 443.42 lakhs. This does not include the amount received from the State Trading Corporation in respect of amounts remitted on the distribution of canalised drugs.

(b) To the extent information available, the total amount distributed from the DPEA is Rs. 1591.4 lakhs which includes distribution from the amount received from State Trading Corporation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Pending applications for telephone connections

582. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) number of applications received for telephone connections during the last financial year, State-wise;

(b) number of applicants to whom telephone connections have been granted during the last financial year; state-wise; and

(c) the number of applications for telephone connections still pending as on date and by when these applicants would be provided with telephone connections?